

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

Preparations to Bombard the City.

STEADY ADVANCE OF OUR WORKS.

Explosion of a Magazine in a Rebel Fort.

SUMTER STILL IN REBEL HANDS.

The U. S. steamer McClellan, Capt. Gray, arrived on Saturday morning from Hilton Head 15th, and Morris Island 16 at 10:15 a.m. She brings a mail a number of passengers, and 100 Rebel prisoners taken at Fort Wagner.

Gen. Gillmore was busy mounting heavy guns at Wagner and Cummings Point to bombard Charleston from, and was somewhat annoyed by the Rebel fire from James Island. The casualties on the Union side were few.

Sumter was yet in the hands of the Rebels. The siege was progressing favorably.

Charleston at the Mercy of Our Forces—Visit to Forts Wagner and Gregg—What the Rebels Left Behind—Explosion of a Rebel Magazine in Fort Simpkins—Steady Advance of Our Works—Gen. Gillmore's Congratulatory Order.

From our Special Correspondent.

MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1863.

Charleston now stands at the mercy and by the sufferance of Gen. Gillmore and the army he commands. I have visited the captured Forts Wagner and Gregg. They command the treacherous city. The evidences of persistent approach and desperate fighting, whereby they were gained to our side, are terribly engraved on the soil where so many of our noble brethren fell.

The escautons or bomb-proofs in Wagner are made with a solidity and strength that shows the tenacity of purpose of their constructors. Large quantities of ammunition are still there, just as they were left by the Rebels on the 5th inst. In company with Major Butler and Adj't. Childs of the — Ohio Regt., I rode through the abandoned works and was fully satisfied, from their description and explanations, that outside of their bomb-proofs the Rebels could not have ventured, so terrible and deadly must the Union fire have become. Major Butler was the last field officer in the work. He escaped unharmed, although his sword-sabre had not been marked by the impressions of four musket-balls. The commander of the same regiment, Col. Verlis was wounded, as also Adj't. Childs. Out of 240 of these brave Ohio boys that went into the deadly engagement of 15th July, only 100 escaped unharmed. The struggle lasted two hours and a half. Twelve guns were left in position in Wagner when it was abandoned on the 5th inst. The carriages of two more were disabled by our fire. These guns will be used against the Rebels. The same is true of three guns in Fort Gregg. One gun, supposed to be rifled, the rebels carried off with them.

Many pairs of Rebel shoes, quite new, were found on the Island. I have seen a pair, rough, uncouth things, very inferior articles, made in England of half dressed raised cow-hides, fastened with iron nails to thick sole. By an entry in a clothing account-book left by the Rebels, it was found that their soldiers had been charged ten dollars per pair for these things. English pattern snap-slops were also found, with the maker's name on the boxes. I picked up cartridge-boxes in Wagner of the same make and pattern as those worn by the British soldiers. ——————

English manufacture.

Our little party were favored by Fort Moultrie with especial marks of regard. Probably the garrison had no idea that we were on the abandoned works looking for souvenirs, for they sent us two shells. These were so badly packed for the transit that they arrived whole about 50 and 100 feet respectively, much damaged, and even shattered—quite useless. In fact, as additions to my little ethnological collection at home. When civilization is re-established in these parts, the kind friends who intended for us this striking proof of their regard will find the express companies much better qualified to deliver intact their substantial compliments.

The shells made a sound in the air, when near, something similar to the puffing of a locomotive in full speed. I saw several in the fort still unexploded. They had a smooth and trowel-shaped front, and I avoided their deadly presence. One ironclad ch'd. shelled us, as these were as a "monster shot." Such calculations as these would be apt to convince those whom they might reach that Uncle Sam is in earnest.

We are all enjoying the delights of a summering watering-place. The men bathe and fish open at night, a beach at that at Cape May. The ladies go in parties. The troops are in good spirits, and my ready-to-order copy of General Orders issued yesterday by Gen. Gillmore:

G. H. G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
GENERAL THOMAS IN THE FIELD
MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Sept. 15, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS.—It is with no ordinary feelings of regret and pride, that the Army upon the South Carolina coast has succeeded in capturing the Army which it had been engaged to subdue. Fort Sumter is destroyed. The scene where our country's flag suffered its first dismesser, you have made the theater of one of its greatest triumphs.

The fort has lost the power of the enemy for more than a month. It has lost its girdle and breast; has been strengthened by every appliance known to military science, and has defied the assaults of the most powerful and gallant fleet the world over. But it has yielded to your courage and patient labor. It will be a source of infinite gratification to all who are interested, and though a hostile fleet still exists over the horizon, a helpless wreck.

Forts Wagner and Gregg, works remarkable for their protracted resistance, and the number of the dead, cost the Rebels a heavy sum, by your persistent covering, courage and skill, and the graves of your fallen comrades rescued from desolation and contempt.

Our works advance steadily. The forts Wagner and Gregg, recently captured, are still held by us, with all their guns and ammunition abandoned by the enemy, except a copy of General Orders issued yesterday by Gen. Gillmore:

G. H. G.

Review of Colored Troops by Gen. Thomas.

From The New Orleans Free Sept. 12.

One of the pleasantest excursions of the season took that of Adj't. General Thomas and party, which took place yesterday. The General desired to see the regimental display at Fort Jackson and St. Philip, and he invited a few military gentlemen to accompany him. The party numbered about a dozen, including members of the staffs of Gen. Banks, Grant and Thaddeus. They started out at midnight Wednesday, in Gen. Thomas' private boat, the "Maryland Franklin," and arrived at the forts at 7 o'clock the next morning. The night had been cool and delightful, and propitious to the advancement of tired nature's sweet restorer, but when the sun rose those who had not taken advantage of the opportunity, so sedulously afforded, of enjoying a few hours sleep, whilst they had been on deck, were sorry that they would have been compelled to do so. And so it was. 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